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POTATO STOCKS

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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 18 PERCENT FROM YEAR EARLIER

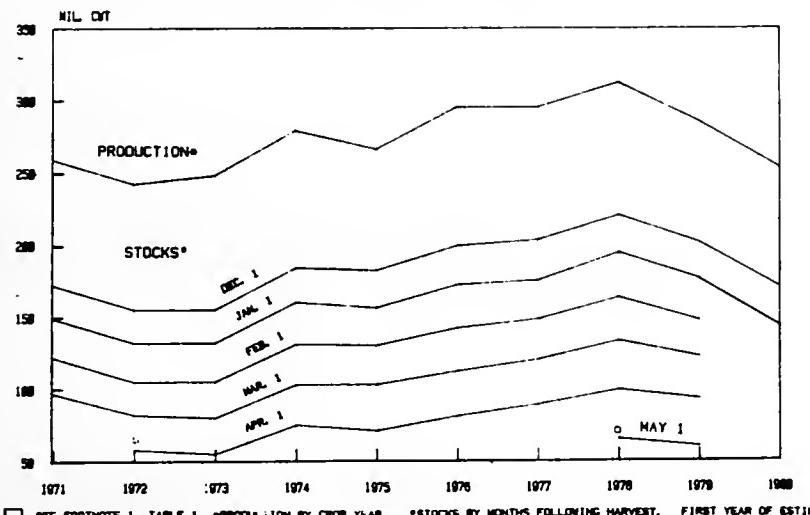
Potato stocks as of January 1, 1981 are estimated at 144 million cwt in the 15 major States. This is 18 percent less than January 1, 1980 and 26 percent below January 1, 1979. Of the total stocks on hand 74 percent were Russets, 23 percent Whites and 3 percent Reds.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The three Eastern States had 21.7 million cwt in storage, 26 percent below January 1 last year and 16 percent below January 1, 1979. Maine's stocks totaled 16.1 million cwt, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Estimated holdings in the six Central States totaled 26.1 million cwt, down 23 percent from January 1, 1980 and 35 percent below January 1, 1979. North Dakota's stocks are down 17 percent from a year earlier while Minnesota and Wisconsin are down 26 percent and 27 percent, respectively. In the six Western States stocks are estimated at 96.2 million cwt, 15 percent below a year ago and 25 percent below January 1, 1979. Idaho's stocks at 51.5 million cwt are down 12 percent from a year earlier. Estimated stocks in Washington and Oregon are down 19 percent and 23 percent, respectively, from January 1, 1980.

Disappearance to January 1, 1981 in the 15 fall States totaled 110 million cwt, 1 percent above the same period a year ago. This total disappearance to date includes 16.1 million cwt of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading, and loss due to shrinkage (moisture loss). Disappearance during the month of December totaled 25.8 million cwt compared with 24.8 million cwt for December 1979.

The quantity of potatoes processed to January 1, 1981 totaled 41.3 million cwt, 1 percent below the same period a year ago for the seven major States.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



SEE FOOTNOTE 1, TABLE 1. *PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. **STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST. FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS 1/

YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1970	259,977	171,600	147,550	120,650	95,850		
1971 2/	258,613	172,550	148,600	122,350	97,000		
1972	242,390	155,190	132,050	105,240	82,260	57,710	
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,810
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	253,883	169,780	143,960				

1/ SEE TABLE 3 FOR LIST OF 15 STATES.

2/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1979 AND 1980 CROPS 2/

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1979-80	14,220	18,690	23,970	28,840	34,440	39,930	55,600
	1980-81	14,460	18,710					
MAINE 3/	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,470	4,245	5,200	6,200	7,965
	1980-81	2,190	2,880					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1979-80	13,510	16,995	20,725	24,915	29,395	33,360	43,295
	1980-81	14,610	16,845					
OTHER STATES 4/	1979-80	2,660	3,405	4,260	5,100	6,055	6,880	8,785
	1980-81	2,355	2,890					
TOTAL	1979-80	32,400	41,745	52,425	63,100	75,090	86,370	115,645
	1980-81	33,615	41,325					

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH OR MINN. 2/ PREVIOUS MONTH REVISED. 3/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 4/ MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS,
PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1980 AND JANUARY 1, 1981

STATE	CROP OF 1979			CROP OF 1980		
	PRODUCTION	: JAN 1 STOCKS:		PRODUCTION	: JAN 1 STOCKS:	
		TOTAL STOCKS: : JAN 1, 1980	AS % OF PRODUCTION: : JAN 1, 1980		TOTAL STOCKS: : JAN 1, 1981	AS % OF PRODUCTION
		1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT
CALIF	6,364	3,700	58	6,438	3,300	51
COLO	11,455	7,100	62	10,950	6,500	59
IDAKO	85,050	58,500	69	78,455	51,500	66
MAINE	27,685	21,200	77	24,960	16,100	65
MICH	8,000	4,400	55	7,403	3,300	45
MINN	12,920	9,500	74	9,920	7,000	71
MONT	1,800	1,690	94	1,725	1,610	93
NEBR	1,482	930	63	1,876	1,150	61
N Y - L I	6,431	2,400	37	4,418	950	22
- UPSTATE	6,463	2,500	39	6,250	2,150	34
N DAK	18,240	10,700	59	15,680	8,900	57
OHIO	2,400	800	33	1,948	300	15
OREG	25,310	14,600	58	19,745	11,300	57
PA	6,000	3,300	55	4,180	2,500	60
WASH	48,450	27,300	56	43,935	22,000	50
WIS	17,010	7,400	44	16,000	5,400	34
15 STATE						
TOTAL	285,060	176,020	62	253,883	143,960	57

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1981 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1961-80 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1981 potato stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 144 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 3.31 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent or approximately 5.76 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.5 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.9 and the smallest was 1.2 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.



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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, JANUARY 1, 1981,
11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			TOTAL
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	
PERCENT				
COLO	10		1/ 90	100
IDAHO			1/ 27100	100
MAINE		2/75	25	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	20	50	30	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	26	59	15	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	5	20	75	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	23	74	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.